
The **LABOUR** *Market*

Overview of the labour market

Table 1 provides a summary of the most recent Scottish labour market statistics. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimate of the level of employment in the period December to February 2000 was 2,333 thousand, which was 23 thousand up on the same period of 1998-99. This represents a 0.6 per cent increase in employment as compared with the same quarter one year previous. Figure 1 plots the quarterly LFS employment data (with the estimated plus and minus sampling error) from the first quarter 1998 to the end of February 2000. Note that LFS employment estimates in Scotland for this period reveal an increase of around 17,000 from the previous 3 month period, which is in keeping with the underlying trend in employment growth. Figure 1 also indicates the upper and lower bounds of the LFS employment estimates given the sampling variability implicit in the survey. This implies that we can be 97% confident that the most recent estimate of LFS employment in Scotland lies within the band illustrated in Figure 1. Recall that the LFS measure of total employment is more complete than the traditional Workforce Jobs series, though it does have other limitations beyond simple sampling variability. (We continue to report the Workforce Jobs data below, which are based on employer surveys, because these are thought to provide a more accurate account of the industrial distribution of employment.)

The International Labour Office (ILO) rate of unemployment in Scotland was 7.5% over the quarter December 1999 to February 2000. The comparable figure one year previous was 7.4%, indicating a small rise of around 5 thousand over the year. (Recall that the rate of ILO unemployment is calculated as a proportion of the economically active in Scotland.) Figure 2 plots ILO unemployment levels in Scotland from the first quarter of 1998 to the quarter ending February 2000. Note that from the last quarter of 1999, ILO

unemployment in Scotland increased by 12 thousand, which was not in keeping with the general downward trend exhibited by Figure 2. However, this can be explained by considering the large increase in the number of economically active in Scotland over the same period.

Figure 3 plots the number of economically active persons in Scotland from the first quarter of 1998 to the quarter ending February 2000. Note that over the last period (from the final quarter of 1999 to the period ending February 2000) the number of economically active persons in Scotland increased by 29 thousand. Recall that this figure includes the sum of those who are in employment or those actively seeking work during this period.

The composition of the economically active population in Scotland will obviously change depending on the flows in and out of the labour market in Scotland. Factors which are likely to affect the number of new entrants include the number of school leavers, graduates, in-migrants etc. and those who are currently in-active (not seeking work) that have been attracted back into the labour market. Similarly, workers leaving the Scottish labour market through retirement, health etc., out-migration or those not wanting a job obviously reduces this number. Therefore, periodically there are fluctuations to the number of economically active as well as the number of unemployed depending on these changes.

Over the last reported three-month period, the number of economically active increased by 29 thousand and the number of unemployed by 12 thousand. The difference represents the increase in employment growth. Over the same period the number of economically in-active fell by around 6 thousand, which suggests the remainder came from other changes in the composition of the labour market as noted above. (Figure 4 reports the composition of the economically inactive in Scotland from the first quarter of 1998 to the quarter ending February 2000.)

In total, the percentage of the Scottish labour force that are economically active increased by 0.3% from the final quarter of 1999 to 77.8 per cent for the period December 1999 to February 2000. This represents a 0.7% increase on the same period one year previous and brings the total number of economically active people in Scotland to 2,522 thousand.

The traditional claimant-count-based measure of unemployment for March 2000 was 5.1%. However, recall that the difference between the ILO and claimant-count definitions reflects the

distinction between those who are actively seeking work, but are jobless, and those who are eligible for unemployment benefit payments. To get to the ILO definition from numbers of claimants the numbers of those eligible for benefit but not actively seeking work have to be subtracted. However, those ineligible for benefits but actively seeking work have to be added, and in recent years at least, this adjustment has been the greater.

The LFS definition of unemployment has the distinct advantage over the claimant count due to the fact that it is much less sensitive to changes in the regulations governing eligibility to unemployment benefits. Recall that there have been a number of revisions over the past two decades to those deemed eligible for unemployment benefit. In contrast, the ILO definition conforms to a widely accepted standard so that cross-country comparisons are more meaningful.

Sectoral Composition of Employment

The most recent employee jobs data are for December 1999 and these are reported in Tables 2 and 3. These figures indicate that total employee jobs was estimated at 2,032 thousand, which is unchanged from the previous year and down 5,000 on the previous quarter, in the year to December 1999. Full-time male employees in employment fell by an estimated 3 and 12 thousand, respectively over the third to fourth quarter, 1999, and against the same period one year previous. Female full-time employment fell by 7 and 6 thousand, respectively, against the previous quarter and year. However, part-time male and female employment in Scotland increased by around 8 and 2 thousand, respectively as compared with the same period one year previous. The changes in the composition of employment, in terms of the actual levels, represent very modest adjustments (i.e. less than 1.5 per cent).

Over the year to December 1999 the largest sectoral employment gain was in the Transport storage and communication sector with employment increasing by around 8 thousand. Other sub-sectors, which recorded employment gains over the year to December 1999, include Education (4,000), Health and social work (4,000), Wholesale and Retail (3,000), Hotels and restaurants (2,000), Financial intermediation (2,000) and Public admin (2,000). Again, over the year to December 1999, manufacturing recorded the largest sectoral employment fall (17,000). Other sectors that also recorded employment reductions included Mining and quarrying (3,000), Construction (2,000), Real estate (1,000) and other Community activities (1,000).

Vacancies: stocks and flows

Over the year to March 2000 Job Centre unfilled vacancies throughout Scotland fluctuated between 33.7 and 36.6 thousand on a seasonally adjusted basis (Table 4). This represents an increase in unfilled vacancies of 8.6 per cent or 2.9 thousand. Vacancies notified increased by 0.1 thousand in the year to March 2000 (0.4%), on a seasonally adjusted basis. Figure 5 plots the monthly stock and outflows of Job Vacancies in Scotland over the period April 1997 to March 2000. Recall that were the monthly gross outflows (vacancies being filled) are of the same order of magnitude to the outstanding stock of vacancies in each month, this indicates that employers on average do not find it difficult to fill posts because of a continuing slackness in the labour market. (Although employers may still find it difficult to recruit specific skills in particular locations.) Note from Figure 5 that over the last few months the trend in the difference between the outstanding stock of vacancies and the gross outflows has continued, though the most recent data suggest a narrowing in this gap. For example, gross outflows in January 2000 were 25.6 thousand compared with a stock of vacancies of 38.0 thousand. In March 2000, gross outflows were 25.5 thousand compared with a stock of vacancies of 36.6 thousand. Overall Figure 4 suggests that the Scottish labour market remains relatively tight.

As noted in the previous Quarterly Economic Commentary, many commentators had suggested that employment levels in the UK and throughout many of the regions were at their highest attainable level, without stoking further inflationary pressures. Recall that this is based on the notion that there is a (natural) rate of unemployment at which any subsequent lower rates will lead simply to higher inflation and no further employment gains.

Whether the Scottish labour market has reached (or is approaching) such a point is doubtful. However, there is one method which allows you to compare the number of vacancies within the region against the number of unemployed. For example, it is estimated that for every vacancy advertised at Job Centres, there are two more advertised elsewhere, or not advertised at all. The March 2000 estimate for Job Centres vacancies was 36.6 thousand, which suggests that in total there are around 110 thousand unfilled vacancies in Scotland. With close to 124 thousand people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland (March 2000), the potential gap between the number of people seeking work and the number of actual vacancies is of the order of magnitude of around 24,000, which indicates a slight increase

from the previous month. However, over the period reported in Figure 6 (April 1997 to March 2000) the past six months indicate a sharp narrowing in this differential, as against the earlier periods. However, recall that the claimant count provides a very narrow definition of the unemployed (see below), which underestimates the true number by around 2 per cent. The key point to stress here is that if employment continues to rise we would expect to see earnings growth rise, which may indicate that employment is reaching its upper level. If this is the case then government policies on encouraging people back into the labour market become crucially important if employment growth is to continue.

Unemployment – claimant count: stocks and flows

Recent data on the seasonally adjusted unemployment stock, as measured by the claimant count, are presented in Table 5. The most recent data, of course, reflect the rules governing eligibility to claim benefit which have been in place since 7 October 1996 when both unemployment benefit and unemployment-related income support were replaced by the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Since this significantly reduces the period over which claimants are eligible for benefits, the effect is to reduce the number of registered unemployed, even in the absence of any change in underlying labour market conditions.

Over the year to March 2000 total claimant unemployment fell by about 13 thousand, or by 9.6%. Male unemployment fell by 9.1 thousand over the year (8.7%), while female unemployment fell by 2.9 thousand (9.4%). (Recall the JSA provides a very narrow definition of the unemployed.)

Table 5 also presents recent flows into and out of the unemployment stock. In March 2000 inflows were, at 29.2 thousand, 0.7% lower than one year previous. Outflows were, at 28 thousand, unchanged from one year previous. If gross outflows were maintained at their March 2000 level unemployment stocks could turnover in around 5 months.

Summary

In summary, the most recent labour market data for Scotland indicate that the Scottish labour market remains stable with continued employment growth.

TABLE 1 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SCOTTISH LABOUR MARKET

	1999/2000	Level (000s)	Rate (%)	Change on Year (level)	Sampling variability(000s)	Change on year (rate)	Sampling variability (%)	
Employment*	Jan-Mar	2,302	71.4	40	±57	1.5	±1.5	
	Apr-Jun	2,303	71.5	19	±57	1.1	±1.45	
	Jul-Sep	2,295	71.4	-19	±58	-0.1	±1.5	
	Oct-Dec	2,305	71.6	-17	±58	-0.4	±1.5	
	Jan-Mar	2,288	71.0	-14	±57	-0.4	±1.5	
	Apr-Jun	2,304	71.5	0	±57	-0.1	±1.5	
	Jul-Sep	2,321	72.2	36	±58	1.2	±1.5	
	Oct-Dec	2,316	71.9	16	±58	0.4	±1.5	
	Dec-Feb	2,333	72.0	23	±58	0.6	±1.5	
	ILO unemployment**	Jan-Mar	194	7.8	-22	±24	-0.9	±1.0
		Apr-Jun	188	7.6	-32	±25	-1.2	±1.0
		Jul-Sep	192	7.7	-17	±24	-0.5	±0.9
Oct-Dec		182	7.3	9	±22	0.4	±0.9	
Jan-Mar		187	7.6	-6	±24	-0.2	±0.9	
Apr-Jun		178	7.2	-7	±23	-0.3	±0.9	
Jul-Sep		175	7.0	-13	±23	-0.6	±0.9	
Oct-Dec		177	7.1	-15	±22	-0.6	±0.9	
Dec-Feb		189	7.5	5	±23	0.1	±0.9	
Economically active*		Jan-Mar	2,496	77.5	18	±55	0.9	±1.4
		Apr-Jun	2,488	77.4	-13	±55	0.1	±1.4
		Jul-Sep	2,488	77.4	-35	±55	-0.6	±1.4
	Oct-Dec	2,487	77.4	-9	±55	-0.1	±1.4	
	Jan-Mar	2,475	76.9	-21	±55	-0.6	±1.4	
	Apr-Jun	2,482	77.1	-7	±55	-0.9	±1.4	
	Jul-Sep	2,495	77.7	23	±57	0.8	±1.4	
	Oct-Dec	2,493	77.5	1	±57	0	±1.4	
	Dec-Feb	2,522	77.8	29	±57	0.7	±1.4	
	Economically inactive* of which:	Jan-Mar	708	22.5	-27	±55	-0.1	±1.4
		Apr-Jun	711	22.6	-3	±55	-0.6	±1.4
		Jul-Sep	710	22.6	19	±55	0.1	±1.4
Oct-Dec		711	22.6	1	±55	0.1	±1.4	
Jan-Mar		724	23.1	17	±55	0.6	±1.4	
Apr-Jun		717	22.9	7	±55	-0.3	±1.4	
Jul-Sep		699	22.3	-26	±55	-0.8	±1.4	
Oct-Dec		706	22.5	0	±56	0	±1.4	
Dec-Feb		700	22.2	-22	±56	-0.7	±1.4	
Not wanting a job*		Jan-Mar	451		-46	±47		
		Apr-Jun	456		-13	±46		
		Jul-Sep	474		36	±47		
	Oct-Dec	497		42	±47			
	Jan-Mar	499		49	±47			
	Apr-Jun	492		37	±47			
Jul-Sep	484		-6	±48				
Oct-Dec	485		0	±49				
Dec-Feb	497		-1	±49				

Wanting a job ⁺	Jan-Mar	257		19	±35		
	Apr-Jun	255		10	±35		
	Jul-Sep	237		-16	±35		
	Oct-Dec	214		-41	±35		
	Jan-Mar	225		-32	±35		
	Apr-Jun	223		-28	±35		
	Jul-Sep	215		-22	±34		
	Oct-Dec	221		0	±34		
	Dec-Feb	203		-21	±33		
Claimant count (seasonally adjusted)	Apr 98	138.6	5.7	-24.8			
	July 98	137.4	5.6	-10.6			
	Oct 98	136.5	5.5	-5.7			
	Jan 99	135.3	5.5	-4.7			
	Apr 99	134.7	5.3				
	Jul 99	127.9		-9.6			
	Oct 99	125.8	5.2	-11		-0.5	
	Jan 00	123.4	5.1	-12.4		0.5	
Mar 00	123.6	5.1	-13.1		-0.5		
Vacancies notified (seasonally adjusted)	Apr 98	23.3		-4.3			
	July 98	24.2		-2.3			
	Oct 98	24.8		-1.4			
	Jan 99	26.4		3.0			
	Apr 99	26.6		3.5			
	Jul 99	24.5		0.3			
	Oct 99	25.9		1.1			
	Jan 00	25.8		-0.7			
Mar 00	25.6		0.1				

Source: ONS Notes: * Levels are for those aged 16 and over, rates are for those of working age (16-59/64) ** Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over. Rate is as a proportion of economically active + Levels and rates are for those of working age

TABLE 2 EMPLOYEE JOBS BY INDUSTRY									
(SIC 1980) SIC 1992	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	Prod/Const	Production	Manuf.	Services
	(All) Full-time	P/T	(All) Full-time	P/T		(1-5) C-F	(1-4) C-E	(2-4) D	(6-9) G-Q
1998									
Dec	901	117	569	446	2,032	477	359	314	1,519
1999									
Mar	895	113	558	446	2,012	462	349	304	1,514
Jun	889	115	568	448	2,020	457	345	301	1,525
Sep	893	119	572	252	2,037	458	342	300	1,539
Dec	887	123	562	460	2,032	454	339	297	1,542

Source: ONS Labour Market Trends, May 2000, Table B.16, Page S28

TABLE 3 EMPLOYEE JOBS IN SCOTLAND BY INDUSTRY

SIC 1992	Agric. hunting forestry fishing	Mining & Quarrying	Manufacturing	Elect, gas & water supply	Construction	Wholesale trade & repairs	Hotels & rest.	Tr'port storage & comm.	Financial intermediation	Real Estate renting & bus. activities	Public admin. & defence: comp. Soc. Sec.	Education	Health & Social Work	Other comm, social & pers. activities
	A,B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O-Q
1998														
Dec	36	27	314	18	118	322	124	107	80	231	148	149	258	100
1999														
Mar	37	27	304	18	112	314	123	110	81	228	148	155	258	97
Jun	39	26	301	18	111	313	128	113	82	230	149	153	259	98
Sep	39	25	300	18	116	316	128	113	83	233	150	153	263	99
Dec	36	24	297	18	116	325	126	115	82	230	150	153	262	99

Source: ONS Labour Market Trends, May 2000, Table B.16, Page S29

TABLE 4 JOB CENTRE VACANCIES								
	Vacancies notified		Vacancies unfilled		Vacancy outflow		Of which: Vacancies filled by Jobcentres	
	Level 1	Change on month	Level	Change on month	Level	Change on month	Level	Change on month
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1998 January	23.4	-0.9	31.2	-1.3	24.9	-1.3	15.7	0.2
February	24.6	1.2	31.5	0.3	24.6	-0.3	14.9	-0.8
March	25.1	0.5	32.4	0.9	24.2	-0.4	15.3	0.4
April	23.1	-2.0	31.9	-0.5	23.6	-0.6	14.5	-0.8
May	22.9	-0.2	31.4	-0.5	23.4	-0.2	14.3	-0.1
June	24.2	1.3	30.8	-0.6	24.9	1.5	14.6	0.3
July	24.2	0.0	30.2	-0.6	24.9	0.0	14.7	0.1
August	24.0	-0.2	30.3	0.1	24.0	-0.9	14.3	-0.4
September	24.6	0.6	30.2	-0.1	24.4	0.4	15.1	0.8
October	24.8	0.2	30.6	0.4	24.9	0.5	15.9	0.8
November	24.2	-0.6	30.4	-0.2	24.1	-0.8	14.9	-1.0
December	25.0	0.8	31.0	0.6	24.7	0.6	15.6	0.7
1999 January	26.5	1.5	31.5	0.5	25.5	0.8	16.1	0.5
February	26.8	0.3	31.6	0.1	26.7	1.2	16.4	0.3
March	25.7	-1.1	31.3	-0.3	25.7	-1.0	15.4	-1.0
April	26.6	0.8	31.0	-0.3	26.8	1.1	17.0	1.6
May	24.0	-2.5	31.0	0.0	23.4	-3.4	14.6	-2.4
June	24.4	0.4	31.3	0.3	24.4	1.0	14.9	0.3
July	24.5	0.1	31.8	0.5	24.1	-0.3	15.1	0.2
August	24.6	0.1	32.1	0.3	24.7	0.6	15.5	0.4
September	26.0	1.4	33.1	1.0	24.8	0.1	16.2	0.7
October	25.9	-0.1	35.6	2.5	24.0	-0.8	16.0	-0.2
November	26.4	0.4	36.9	1	25.2	1.1	16.7	0.7
December	27.1	0.7	37.6	0.7	26.2	1.0	16.7	0
2000								
January	25.8	-1.3	38.0	0.3	25.6	-0.6	16.7	0.1
February	25.6	-0.2	37.3	-0.7	25.3	-0.3	15.5	-1.2
March	25.6	0	36.6	-0.7	25.5	0.2	15.2	-0.3
Change on year	0.1		2.9		0		0.2	
Change on year(%)	0.4		8.6		0		1.2	

Source: Employment Service

TABLE 5 CLAIMANT COUNT*							
		Claimant Count (seasonally adjusted)		Inflows (standardised)	Outflows (standardised)	Claimant Count (unadjusted)	
		Level	Rate (%)	Level	Level	Level	Rate (%)
		1	2	3	4	5	6
People	1997 October	147.1	6.0	28.8	30.7	142.1	5.8
	November	143.4	5.8	28.9	31.3	138.7	5.6
	December	139.3	5.7	29.9	32.9	139.0	5.7
	1998 January	141.0	5.7	29.8	28.4	152.2	6.2
	February	140.2	5.7	30.1	30.7	149.5	6.1
	March	139.5	5.7	29.4	30.0	144.5	5.9
	April	139.4	5.7	28.1	29.3	143.4	5.8
	May	139.9	5.7	29.1	28.0	139.7	5.7
	June	139.7	5.7	28.7	28.9	138.0	5.6
	July	137.5	5.6	26.6	29.0	148.7	6.0
	August	136.4	5.5	28.6	29.6	149.0	6.1
	September	135.9	5.5	27.7	29.7	135.4	5.5
	October	136.8	5.6	28.4	27.0	132.1	5.4
	November	136.3	5.5	29.1	28.6	132.1	5.4
	December	134.7	5.5	28.8	30.7	132.3	5.4
	1999 January	135.3	5.5	28.0	29.0	133.0	5.4
	February	136.5	5.6	28.9	28.6	145.4	6.0
	March	137.3	5.6	30.2	28.9	142.8	5.9
	April	134.7	5.5	28.2	30.9	139.0	5.7
	May	134.5	5.5	30.2	30.2	134.7	5.5
	June	133.6	5.5	29.4	30.0	133.7	5.5
	July	127.9	5.3	27.3	34.4	138.7	5.7
	August	126.4	5.2	30	31.9	137.3	5.6
	September	126.9	5.2	29	28.3	126.4	5.2
	October	125.8	5.2	28.2	28.4	121.1	5.0
	November	124.7	5.1	28.6	29.4	120.0	4.9
	December	123.3	5.1	28.2	29.7	119.8	4.9
	2000 January	123.8	5.1	28	26.7	134.0	5.5
	February	123.9	5.1	29.2	29	133.5	5.5
	March	123.6	5.1	29.2	29	130.6	5.4
	Change on mnth	-0.3	0	0	0	-3	-0.1
	Change %	-0.2		0	0	-2.2	
Change on year	-13.1	-0.5	-0.7	0	-12.3	-0.5	
Change %	-9.6		-2.3	0	-8.6		

Quarterly Economic Commentary

Men	1997 October	114.1	8.6	20.5	22.4	110.3	8.3
	November	111.4	8.4	20.8	22.8	108.0	8.1
	December	107.7	8.1	21.4	24.0	108.8	8.2
	1998 January	109.4	8.2	21.6	20.3	118.8	9.0
	February	108.5	8.2	21.6	22.2	115.9	8.7
	March	107.9	8.1	21.1	21.7	112.0	8.4
	April	107.9	8.1	20.0	21.1	110.8	8.4
	May	108.1	8.2	20.8	20.1	108.6	8.2
	June	107.5	8.1	20.1	20.7	106.4	8.0
	July	105.8	8.0	18.2	20.4	109.8	8.3
	August	105.2	7.9	19.9	20.5	109.7	8.3
	September	104.9	7.9	19.5	20.2	103.5	7.8
	October	105.3	7.9	20.0	19.5	101.6	7.7
	November	104.9	7.9	20.6	20.4	102.2	7.7
	December	103.4	7.8	20.4	22.1	103.3	7.7
	1999 January	103.9	7.8	19.8	20.7	113.3	7.8
	February	105.1	8.1	20.6	20.3	112.0	8.6
	March	105.9	8.1	21.8	20.5	110.4	8.5
	April	103.9	8.0	20.3	22.2	107.1	8.2
	May	104.1	8.0	21.7	21.5	104.8	8.0
	June	103.8	8.0	21.2	21.4	103.7	8.0
	July	101.3	7.8	20.2	23.1	105.1	8.1
	August	99.7	7.7	21.6	23.2	103.7	8.0
	September	98.8	7.6	20.9	21.9	97.1	7.5
	October	97.5	7.5	20.2	21.0	93.6	7.2
	November	96.3	7.4	20.6	21.5	93.0	7.1
	December	95.1	7.3	20.2	21.6	93.5	7.2
	2000 January	95.8	7.3	20.5	19.5	104.1	8.0
	February	95.7	7.3	21.0	21.0	103.2	7.9
	March	95.6	7.3	20.9	20.9	101.0	7.7
	Change on month	0.2	0	-0.2	-1.2	10.6	0.8
	Change %	0.2	-0.7	-1.0	-5.6	11.3	
	Change on year	-9.1	0	0	-0.2	-9.2	
	Change %	-8.7		0	-1.0	-8.1	

Quarterly Economic Commentary

Women	1997 October	33.0	2.9	8.3	8.3	31.8	2.8
	November	32.0	2.8	8.1	8.5	30.7	2.7
	December	31.6	2.8	8.5	8.9	30.2	2.7
	1998 January	31.6	2.8	8.2	8.1	33.4	2.9
	February	31.7	2.8	8.5	8.5	33.6	3.0
	March	31.6	2.8	8.3	8.3	32.5	2.9
	April	31.5	2.8	8.1	8.2	32.7	2.9
	May	31.8	2.8	8.3	7.9	31.1	2.7
	June	32.2	2.8	8.6	8.2	31.6	2.8
	July	31.7	2.8	8.4	8.6	39.0	3.4
	August	31.2	2.8	8.7	9.1	39.3	3.5
	September	31.0	2.7	8.2	9.5	31.9	2.8
	October	31.5	2.8	8.4	7.5	30.5	2.7
	November	31.4	2.8	8.5	8.2	30.2	2.7
	December	31.3	2.8	8.4	8.6	29.7	2.6
	1999 January	31.4	2.8	8.2	8.3	33.2	2.9
	February	31.4	2.8	8.3	8.3	33.4	3.0
	March	31.4	2.8	8.4	8.4	32.5	2.9
	April	30.8	2.7	8.1	8.7	31.9	2.8
	May	30.4	2.7	8.5	8.7	29.9	2.6
	June	29.8	2.6	8.2	0.6	30.1	2.7
	July	26.6	2.4	7.1	11.3	33.5	3.0
	August	26.7	2.4	8.4	8.7	33.7	3.0
	September	28.1	2.5	8.1	6.4	29.2	2.6
	October	28.3	2.5	8.0	7.4	27.5	2.4
	November	28.4	2.5	8.0	7.9	27.0	2.4
	December	28.2	2.5	8.0	8.1	26.4	2.3
	2000 January	28.0	2.5	7.5	7.2	29.9	2.6
	February	28.2	2.5	8.2	8.0	30.3	2.7
	March	28.0	2.5	8.2	8.1	29.6	2.6
	Change on mnth	-0.2	0	0	0.1	-0.8	-0.1
	Change %	-0.7		0	1.3	-2.5	
Change on year	-2.9	-0.3	-0.2	-0.3	-2.9	-0.3	
Change %	-9.4		-2.4	-3.6	-8.9		

Source: Benefits Agency administrative system

Note: * Count of claimants of unemployment-related benefit
Denominator = employee jobs + self-employment jobs + Government-supported trainees + HM Forces + claimants of unemployment-related benefits

Figure 1 - LFS Employment plus and minus sampling variability in Scotland for those aged 16 and over.

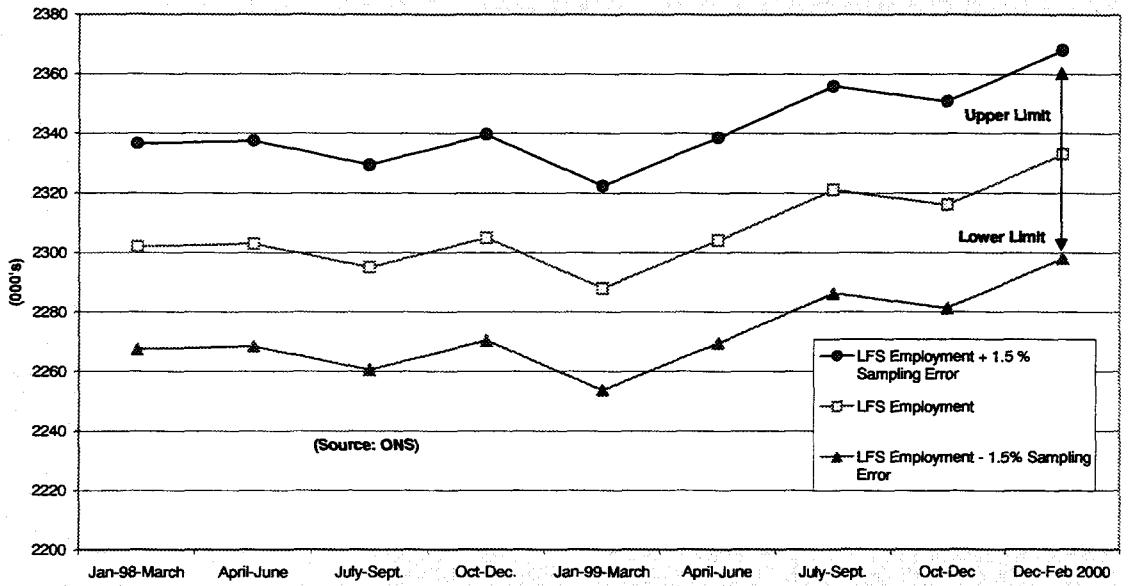


Figure 2 - ILO Unemployment in Scotland for those aged 16 and over.

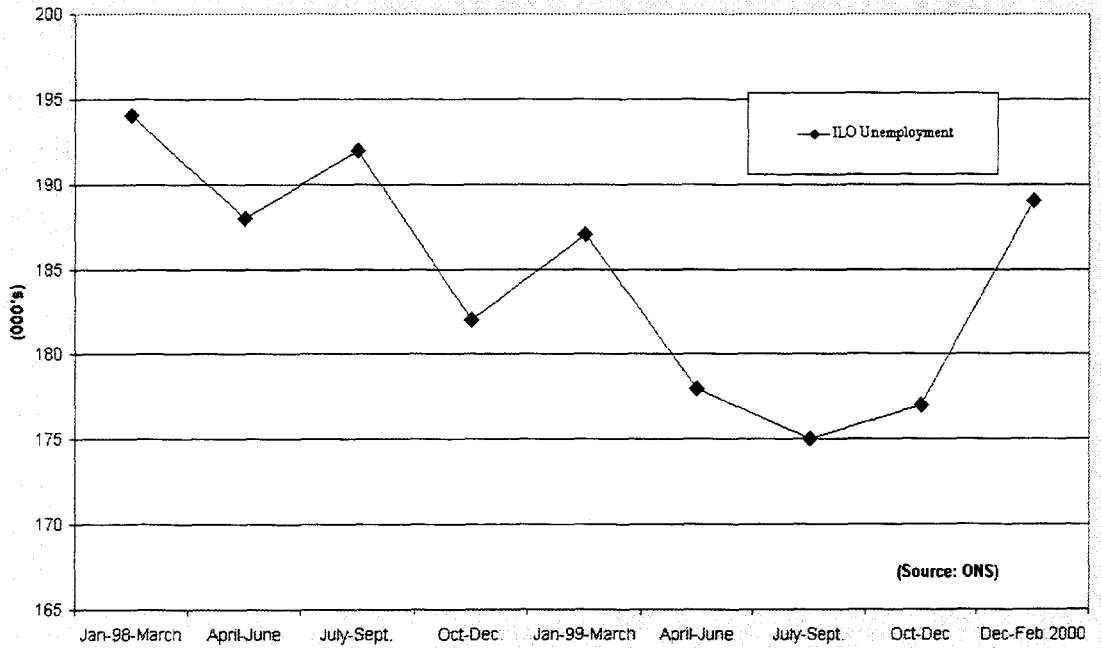


Figure 3 - Economically Active in Scotland (includes those in employment or actively seeking employment).

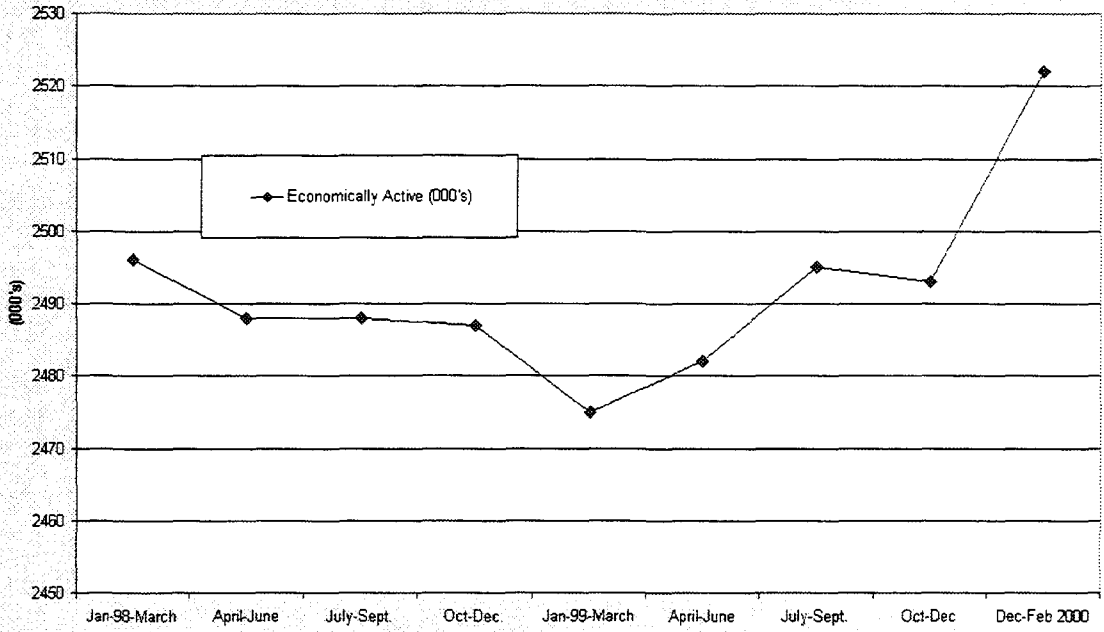


Figure 4 - Composition of the economically inactive in Scotland over the period January 1998 to September 1999.

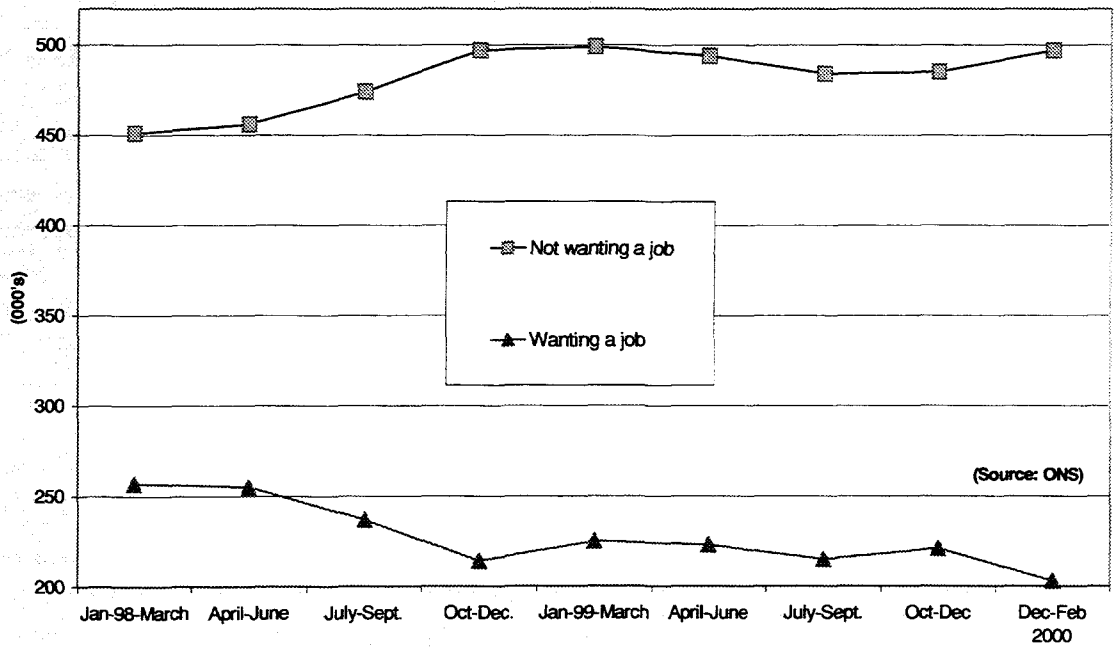


Figure 5 - Monthly stock and outflows of Job Vacancies in Scotland for the period April 1997 to July 1999

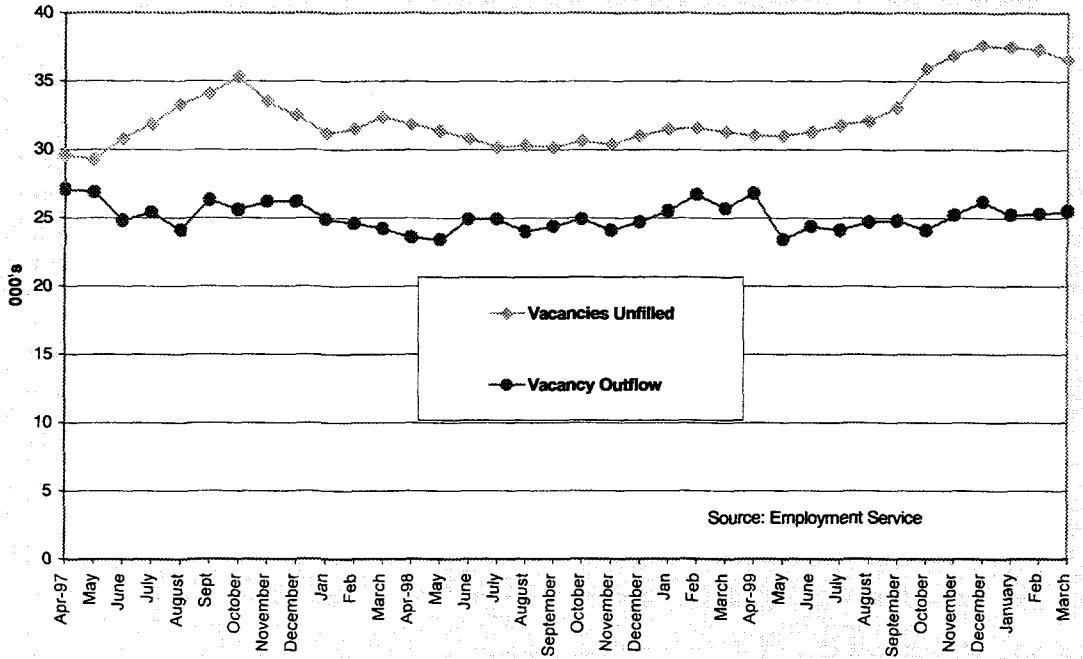


Figure 6 - Comparisons of Scottish Unemployment (Claimant Count) against the estimated level of Scottish vacancies*

